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Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1935 (2010), by which the Council requested me to report every 90 days on progress made towards implementing the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The report includes an assessment of progress made against benchmarks set out in annex II to my report to the Council of 16 November 2009 (S/2009/592), as well as the status of the political process and the security and humanitarian situation during the reporting period, from 1 April to 30 June 2011.

II. Political developments

Darfur peace process

2. The African Union-United Nations Joint Mediation Team presented a draft peace agreement to the Government of the Sudan, the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on 27 April. The draft was based on points of agreement discussed thereto and proposals from the Mediation Team based on previous discussions with the parties on points of divergence, including political appointments, the administrative status of Darfur and security arrangements. The Government and LJM delegations subsequently expressed their support for the draft, with LJM publicly describing it on 30 April as an agreement that provides acceptable solutions to a wide range of disputed issues. JEM sought further negotiations with the Government, which led to agreement on the provisions of the human rights and fundamental freedoms chapter. Negotiations then broke down on 3 May owing to a disagreement over the scope and procedures of the negotiation process.

3. The Mediation Team then sought feedback on the draft text from representatives of Darfuri society at the All Darfur Stakeholders Conference, held in Doha from 27 to 31 May. The organization and conduct of the Conference received significant support from the Government of Qatar and assistance from UNAMID, and brought together approximately 500 participants from the parties to the conflict, civil society groups, political parties, elected officials, refugees and the Darfuri

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diaspora. While the draft text of the agreement was not circulated, stakeholders were presented with the key elements contained in the draft as the basis for their discussions. A meeting of international partners was also convened to assess the progress made thus far.

4. Several challenges associated with the selection and movement of participants were encountered prior to and during the Stakeholders Conference. UNAMID worked with follow-up civil society mechanisms in the three state capitals, which, based on criteria stipulated by the Mediation Team, selected civil society representatives for the Conference. In Nyala the state government insisted that an alternative civil society mechanism comprising National Congress Party supporters be involved in the selection of delegates and detained, on 2 May, a leading member of the civil society follow-up mechanism. Owing to space limitations, seven internally displaced persons were unable to travel from Nyala to Doha on the chartered aircraft, as scheduled on 26 May.

5. Also in connection with the selection of participants, a UNAMID national civil affairs officer was arrested by National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) in Nyala on 27 April. Government authorities informed UNAMID that the staff member was detained in relation to the role he played in the selection of participants for the Stakeholders Conference. UNAMID met with the Government and advocated for the need to respect the status-of-forces agreement, and subsequently obtained access to the staff member, who has a pre-existing heart condition and was found to be in poor health. A request by the mission to allow the staff member to visit a UNAMID hospital was denied by the Services.

6. Once under way, the Stakeholders Conference proceedings comprised plenary sessions, during which participants were presented with the key elements of the draft agreement, and working group sessions, at which the parties presented their positions and participants commented on the agreement. The working group sessions focused on human rights and fundamental freedoms, compensation and returns, power- and wealth-sharing, and the Darfur internal dialogue and consultation. During the sessions, Government and LJM representatives emphasized the benefits of the provisions, in particular in the areas of wealth-sharing and support to returnees, while JEM criticized the draft, stating that it did not sufficiently meet the aspirations of the people of Darfur. Compensation, security, the administrative status of Darfur and accountability for previous human rights violations were among the issues most widely discussed by civil society representatives.

7. At the closing ceremony, on 31 May, participants endorsed a communiqué which provided for the Doha draft document to form the basis for reaching a permanent ceasefire, a comprehensive and inclusive peace settlement, and sustainable peace and stability in Darfur. Moreover, it called upon the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements to make every effort to reach a permanent ceasefire and comprehensive settlement on the basis of that document. In support of these efforts, key international partners are to establish the Darfur Implementation Follow-up Committee, headed by the Government of Qatar. The Committee will act as a group of friends that will support implementation of the agreement.

8. Following the Stakeholders Conference, the Joint Chief Mediator and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar presented the draft document to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in Addis Ababa on 13 June, to the

Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (LAS), in Cairo on 14 June, and to myself on 20 June. The Chairperson, the Secretary-General of LAS and I congratulated the Mediator and Minister on the outcome of the negotiations and welcomed the draft as the basis upon which to continue working towards comprehensive peace.

9. On 14 June, JEM issued a statement on the Doha talks, questioning the inclusiveness of the Stakeholders Conference, observing that the Conference endorsed debated issues rather than the draft document, but nevertheless asserting its willingness to continue to negotiate. Bilateral talks between the Government and JEM then took place in Doha on 3 and 9 June, but then stalled owing to a disagreement over the scope of the negotiations. SLA-Abdul Wahid and SLA-Minni Minawi did not participate in the Conference, nor did they pronounce themselves on its outcome.

10. In the meantime, UNAMID, in conjunction with the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, continued to plan for the Darfur-based political process. These arrangements are in accord with a communiqué issued at the conclusion of the 271st meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council on 8 April that, among other things, requested UNAMID to make all necessary preparations for the political process as a matter of priority and emphasized that the initiative should proceed in a manner concurrent with, and complementary to, the Doha negotiations. UNAMID, the Implementation Panel, and other international partners are currently engaging with the Government to define and establish the enabling environment for the political process. For its part, the Government of the Sudan has reiterated its commitment to suspend the emergency laws in Darfur.

11. On the way forward, the African Union and the United Nations, in consultation with international partners, plan to convene a series of meetings to map out the future framework for the international community's sustained engagement in the Darfur peace process.

The Darfur referendum and the creation of two additional states

12. On 29 March, the Government of the Sudan issued a Presidential Decree providing for the conduct of a referendum on the status of Darfur. The decree was broadly condemned by the armed movements, with SLA-Minni Minawi, JEM and SLA-Mother issuing a joint statement on 2 April in which they, among other things, object to the Decree, vow not to recognize the result and call upon the people of Darfur to strongly oppose it. Similarly, in meetings with UNAMID, members of opposition political parties and internally displaced persons expressed resentment over what they considered to be unilateral action and concern over the viability of its implementation in the prevailing political and security environment.

13. The National Electoral Commission has commenced preparations for the referendum and, on 12 April, formally requested material and technical assistance from UNAMID and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan. UNAMID and the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel have encouraged the Government to build broad-based buy-in among stakeholders before holding the referendum. The issue remained a part of the negotiations between the Government and LJM, and on 26 June, the parties agreed that in the event an agreement is signed the referendum would be held one year after the signing.

14. On 5 May, the Council of Ministers passed legislation on the creation of two additional states in Darfur, a central state with Zalingei as its capital, and a state in the south-east, with a capital in Al Da'ein. The legislation is currently before the National Assembly for its endorsement. Several movements, including SLA-Abdul Wahid, SLA-Minni Minawi, opposition political parties and some sectors of civil society complained in meetings with UNAMID that the creation of two additional states would exacerbate divisions between ethnic groups in Darfur.

Regional developments

15. In recent months relations between the Sudan and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya have deteriorated. On 20 June, the Government of the Sudan publicly accused the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of recruiting "Sudanese mercenaries". The Government of the Sudan has also raised concerns over the risk of arms and ammunition flowing from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya into Darfur and reinforced the presence of its armed forces in north-western Darfur.

16. On 5 May, the headquarters of the Chad Sudan Joint Border Patrol Force was transferred from Abéché, Chad, to El Geneina in Western Darfur, in keeping with the terms of the Dakar Agreement. On 23 May, a tripartite summit involving the Governments of the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic was held in Khartoum, the outcome of which was the signing of the Khartoum Declaration, according to which the parties commit to, inter alia, establishing a Triple Joint Force with which to monitor their borders.

Alliances and unification of movements

17. In recent months, several new alliances between armed movements were formed. On 14 May, SLA-Abdul Wahid and SLA-Minni Minawi issued a Declaration of Alliance, in which they announced their agreement to work together on, inter alia, "joint action and [the] coordination of political and military efforts to overthrow the National Congress Government". Similarly, on 8 May, an alliance between SLA-Abdul Wahid and SLA-Juba was announced, and on 20 May, SLA-Abdul Wahid and SLA-Mother announced that they have reunited under the leadership of Abdul Wahid. On 18 May, a breakaway faction of LJM signed an agreement with JEM and on 25 May, the same faction entered into an alliance with SLA-Minni Minawi.

Security situation

18. A temporary lull in fighting between Government and movement forces, which began in late February, ended on 10 April when SAF carried out an aerial attack on a combined SLA-Minni Minawi and JEM force in Muzbat (127 km north of Kutum), Northern Darfur. Additional aerial attacks and clashes between SAF and movement ground forces took place in the same area on 11, 12 and 13 April. On 13 April, a UNAMID patrol encountered a convoy at Turba, slightly west of Muzbat, identifying itself as a joint SLA-Minni Minawi and JEM coalition force. Military activity in the same region was recorded on 17 April when SLA-Abdul Wahid and

JEM convoys were observed by UNAMID further east, near Jebel Eisa (37 km north of Malha) and El Hara (62 km north of Malha), respectively.

19. Throughout this period of increased military activity, UNAMID observed the deployment of SAF attack helicopters at Malha and Kutum, and the deployment of additional troops to Malha, Kutum and Tine. Sudanese Armed Force commanders advised that the build-up of troops and equipment was intended to prevent armed movements from travelling between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Darfur.

20. A UNAMID patrol was informed on 1 May by local residents that on 24 April a SAF aerial attack had taken place in the vicinity of Tangarara village (20 km north of Shangil Tobaya). On 25 April, SAF aircraft reportedly targeted SLA-Abdul Wahid forces around Ruwata, Owsajini and Burgu villages in East Jebel Marra. According to information received from SAF, on 27 April, SAF and SLA-Abdul Wahid ground forces clashed in Gur Lumbung (11 km north-west of Nyala). There were no reported casualties.

21. In Southern Darfur, a convoy comprising approximately 100 SLA-Minni Minawi and JEM vehicles was observed by UNAMID travelling south on the Buram to El Fifi road on 6 April. UNAMID subsequently received unverified reports from an SAF commander of an exchange of fire between SAF and the convoy near El Fifi, 116 km south of Buram, on the border with South Sudan.

22. Also in Southern Darfur, after reportedly detecting movement forces SAF aircraft dropped four bombs at Labado and several bombs near Esheraya village (30 km south of Al Da'ein) on 15 May. One civilian was killed and another was injured in the bombing near Labado. Restrictions imposed by the Government on UNAMID prevented an assessment of the bombing in Esheraya. SAF commanders later advised that movemen' forces believed to be SLA-Minni Minawi had been detected near Muhajeriya, Labado, Sania Fundu, Shaeria, Marla and Yassin. On 16 and 17 May, SAF aircraft carried out attacks near Kuma (60 km north-east of El Fasher) and Sukamair (68 km north of El Fasher). There were no reported casualties. On 18 May, SAF aircraft attacked movement convoys near Baashim village (80 km north-east of Kutum) and Um Rayi and Hashaba villages (72 and 62 km north-east of Kutum, respectively), causing 10 fatalities according to local sources.

23. In a continuation of fighting in areas formerly controlled by SLA-Minni Minawi, on 31 May and 3 June, a group of unidentified armed men clashed with a group of Zaghawa near Abu Zereiga (20 km north-east of Dar el Salam) after the Zaghawa sought to retrieve stolen livestock. A UNAMID verification team established that an unarmed sheikh was killed in the fighting and that there is a strong possibility at least four other civilians were killed. On 17 June, an unidentified armed group suspected to be loyal to SLA-Minni Minawi attacked a Popular Defence Force (PDF) outpost at Old Shangil Tobaya village. The attackers set fire to several houses, temporarily displacing approximately 1,000 civilians and killing 6 soldiers and an undetermined number of civilians. On 18 June, UNAMID evacuated on medical grounds 15 persons, including 13 civilians, from the Shangil Tobaya hospital to El Fasher.

24. Security within Hassa Hissa camp deteriorated on 25 May, after 11 of the camp's residents met with local government officials in Azoom (50 km west of Zalingei) and discussed means of encouraging returns. Upon returning to the camp, the 11 internally displaced persons were detained by a group of youths from the

camp. Following the intervention of UNAMID, eight of the detainees were released on 28 May and the remaining three were released 10 days later. Despite attempts by UNAMID to resolve the situation through talks, clashes broke out on 8 and 9 June, resulting in the death of 11 internally displaced persons. With the assistance of UNAMID, the tension subsequently subsided and at a meeting with camp and youth leaders on 18 June, UNAMID was informed that relations between the detained internally displaced persons and camp leaders had improved.

Intercommunal conflict

25. The incidence of intercommunal fighting remained relatively low during the reporting period, with three clashes recorded. The first of these involved fighting on 16 April between armed groups of Birgit and Rezeigat in Kulaykili (130 km south-east of Nyala), which broke out after a group of armed Rezeigat sought to exact retribution from several Birgit suspected of involvement in banditry. A total of 14 Birgit, including an *umda* (community leader), and 2 Rezeigat were killed. Following the incident, the Wali of Southern Darfur convened a special investigation committee.

26. The second incident involved a clash between armed groups of Taaisha and Rezeigat near Gereida in Southern Darfur on 19 April following allegations of camel theft. A total of eight persons were killed (5 Taaisha and 3 Rezeigat) in the fighting. Community leaders subsequently initiated a reconciliation process, according to which the Rezeigat paid compensation for the theft of the camels. In the third incident, in Southern Darfur on 19 June, clashes between armed groups of Salamat and Habbaniyah near Nadhif (125 km south of Nyala) over cattle theft and border demarcation reportedly resulted in 13 fatalities and the injury of 10 persons.

27. With a view to improving intercommunal relations in the Zalingei area — where fighting between Misseriya and Rezeigat-Nawaiba claimed an estimated 700 lives from March to September 2010 — UNAMID provided substantial support to an inter-tribal conference in Hillabeyda (25 km east of Zalingei) on 10 May. Assistance took the form of security, transportation and the provision of technical advice. Participants representing various groups, including the native administration, civil society, *aughada* (Arab tribal militia leaders) and local government officials, took part in the conference. Several recommendations for enhancing security and intercommunal relations were made, and a follow-up mechanism was formed to implement them and organize similar conferences in other parts of the region.

Restrictions of movement

28. UNAMID carried out 23,999 patrols from 1 April to 30 June, during which the mission's movements by land were restricted on 68 occasions. Of these, 65 restrictions were imposed by SAF or NISS and 3 by armed movements. On the vast majority of occasions Government military or intelligence services restricted UNAMID patrols, the patrol was either in or seeking to enter an area where the presence of movement forces was suspected by the Government. While UNAMID carried out 5,771 flights from 1 April to 30 June, SAF and other Government officials refused 60 flight clearance requests. Most of the restrictions were imposed

on flights attempting to access or overfly East Jebel Marra or areas of military activity.

Security and safety

29. The number of attacks on UNAMID peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel remained low, owing in part to the maintenance of a robust posture by UNAMID military and police personnel.

30. In the first of two armed attacks on UNAMID peacekeepers, on 5 April, unidentified armed men ambushed a patrol returning from Fato Borno (17 km south-west of Kutum) to Kutum. During the attack one assailant was shot dead and another was injured, and a UNAMID vehicle carrying two police advisers and one language assistant was carjacked. Two of the staff members, who suffered moderate injuries, were subsequently released, while the body of the third, a police adviser, was found nearby in the abandoned vehicle. In the second incident, an unidentified assailant fired at a UNAMID patrol that was escorting a World Food Programme (WFP) convoy at Hotwashi (30 km south-west of El Fasher) on 18 April, hitting one of the vehicles. There were no injuries.

31. On 6 May, a UNAMID national language assistant was arrested by NISS in El Fasher and subsequently transferred to Khartoum. According to Government officials, the staff member was detained in connection with inciting internally displaced persons at Abu Shouk camp to participate in anti-Government demonstrations. UNAMID was granted access to the staff member on 27 June.

32. Following intensive efforts by the Government of the Sudan and WFP, three crew members contracted by the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service abducted at Um Shalaya in Western Darfur on 13 January were released on 6 June.

33. The number of carjacking incidents involving UNAMID or humanitarian agency vehicles decreased from 10 in the period 1 January to 31 March to 5 in the last three months. In addition to the UNAMID vehicle that was taken and then abandoned during the aforementioned attack on 5 April, one UNAMID vehicle was carjacked at Deriege camp in Nyala on 1 June by 15 armed men and one in Nyala on 11 June by 3 armed men. A UNAMID peacekeeper travelling in the passenger seat suffered minor injuries during the 11 June incident.

III. Humanitarian situation

34. While some progress was made in terms of improving humanitarian access, ongoing clashes between Government and movement forces continued to adversely affect the humanitarian situation. According to figures agreed to by the Government and the humanitarian country team, between 60,000 and 70,000 persons have been displaced by fighting from Shangil Tobaya and East Jebel Marra since the beginning of 2011. In addition, citing the presence of armed movements, humanitarian agencies were prohibited by Southern Darfur state government authorities from travelling further than 15 km from Nyala from 15 May to 15 June.

35. On 11 April, NISS entered Kalma camp and arrested a resident who is also a staff member of an international non-governmental organization. In retaliation, on

13 April, internally displaced youths abducted 11 national aid workers in the camp. Following an intervention by UNAMID and United Nations agencies, the youths released the aid workers 24 hours later. Humanitarian access to Kalma was then partially restricted by Government authorities for two months, with international aid workers allowed to enter the camp on a few occasions only. In addition, medical supplies and fuel for water pumps was allowed into the camp on a case-by-case basis only. National non-governmental organizations staff were able to continue to work in clinics and provide water to camp residents, and the restrictions have since been lifted.

36. With a view to improving humanitarian access, on 1 May, UNAMID and humanitarian agencies launched Operation Spring Basket, an initiative designed to enhance access and deliver aid to parts of Darfur that have been inaccessible for several months. The operation, which aims to reach approximately 400,000 beneficiaries, involves UNAMID and aid workers conducting needs assessments and delivering aid. During the operation, humanitarian supplies were delivered to Ein Siro, Kutum, Killing, Kuma Garadayat, Golo, Kaguro, Tina, El Hara and Sarong. The mission to Sarong, a town in SLA-Abdul Wahid-controlled territory, was the first by a humanitarian agency since 2009.

37. In addition, to improve access and the provision of assistance to East Jebel Marra, UNAMID and the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan, in consultation with SLA-Abdul Wahid and the Government, agreed to establish a new UNAMID team site in Feina, in Southern Darfur.

38. As to health care, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the state ministries of health carried out region-wide polio and measles vaccination campaigns. The campaigns involved administering vaccinations to communities in remote rural areas, as well as "mop-up campaigns" in areas where measles outbreaks have previously taken place.

39. With regard to improving access to water, on 26 April, UNAMID launched a water resources initiative that involves distributing high-capacity rolling water containers to returnees. The containers enable mostly women and children to easily transport large amounts of water from wells to their homes, thereby lowering their exposure to harassment and violence by reducing the number of times they must leave their camp or village to collect water. Distribution of 3,000 containers throughout Darfur is planned.

40. The Darfur International Conference: Water for Sustainable Peace took place in Khartoum on 27 and 28 June. Participants sought to create a new integrated framework for water management in Darfur in order to ensure the proper management of water resources. Conference organizers aimed to raise funds for 65 projects designed to develop an equitable and sustainable water service system. Approximately 500 participants representing, among others, the Government of the Sudan, UNAMID, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, donors and other international actors attended. Donors pledged a total of $500 million for water projects at the Conference.

IV. Rule of law, governance and human rights

41. In keeping with the trend of the last 12 months, UNAMID documented during the last 3 months 97 incidents of human rights violations involving 274 victims. With a view to improving human rights protections, the mission continued to raise human rights concerns with Government authorities and to build the capacity of security institutions. Courses were held for 202 Government police, NISS officers and rural court judges, who received training in basic human rights concepts and arrest and detention procedures.

42. The number of cases of sexual and gender-based violence recorded by UNAMID decreased slightly to 17 incidents involving 26 victims, down from 29 incidents involving 54 victims in the first quarter of 2011. Several workshops were convened to enhance the capacity of Government institutions to prevent and respond to these types of incidents. In one such example, UNAMID conducted a workshop in El Fasher on 2 April for 17 women legislators on their role in fulfilling states' obligations to prevent sexual and gender-based violence. In others, training in gender issues was provided to 39 Central Reserve Police in Zalengei on 1 and 2 May, and to prosecutors in El Geneina on 3 and 4 May.

43. In addition, UNAMID continued to monitor trials for their conformity to international human rights principles. In one case, two persons were found guilty in Nyala and sentenced on 2 May to 10 years imprisonment for their involvement in the theft of two World Vision vehicles from Ed al Fursan on 21 February. The court also sentenced a boy 16 years of age to six years in juvenile reformatory for his role in the kidnapping on 4 November 2010 of three aviation staff contracted by WFP.

44. In line with the memorandum of understanding exchanged between the Government and UNAMID, three Prison Development Committees were inaugurated in El Geneina and Zalingei in April and one in Nyala in May. The Committees will serve as forums for finding solutions to challenges affecting prisons and for facilitating prison reforms.

45. UNAMID continued to work with Government authorities to build the capacity of corrections officers and improve conditions for prisoners. In this connection, UNAMID held a course on "basic prison duties and human rights approach to prison management" for Northern and Southern Darfur prison staff from 10 to 14 April and 15 to 19 May, respectively. Moreover, projects have been undertaken to enhance the livelihood prospects and conditions of prisoners. UNAMID, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, provided vocational training in manufacturing soil stabilized blocks to 60 prisoners in Southern Darfur. Blocks produced by the trainees will be used in prison construction projects. On 27 April, a water supply and sanitation project financed by quick-impact project funds was completed at a prison in El Geneina. In addition, on 30 and 31 March, UNAMID, in collaboration with WHO, UNDP and the Ministry of Health, organized a medical camp that benefited 1,000 prisoners, their families and members of the local community in El Fasher.

Child protection

46. Efforts to assist children formerly involved in armed conflict were continued. JEM-Peace Wing took part in a Government-sponsored demobilization exercise in

El Geneina from 17 to 29 April. During the exercise, a list of 65 children formerly associated with armed forces was handed over to the North Sudan Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission for registration and processing.

47. Since the beginning of 2011, UNAMID has held 28 training sessions on child protection that have benefited some 934 mission personnel, including 128 civilians, 580 United Nations police officers and 226 peacekeepers. In addition, in April UNAMID organized a four-day training-of-trainers session with Save the Children Sweden, which benefited 47 military, United Nations police and United Nations military observers officers. The programme was extended to national actors, leading to the conduct of 13 training sessions for 477 local partners. Those benefiting included 34 Government police officers, 255 community policing volunteers in internally displaced person camps, 29 community leaders, 57 members of child protection committees in internally displaced person camps, 82 members of civil society groups and 20 children in conflict with the law.

V. Protection of civilians

48. UNAMID undertook several initiatives during the last three months to improve the protection of civilians and the safety and security of aid workers and their assets.

49. UNAMID military and police personnel enhanced presence and protection activities throughout Darfur by increasing the number of patrols per day from an average of 130 to 160. This included an increase in the number of medium- and long-range patrols to communities in rural areas, including Jebel Marra, Jebel Moon (north of El Geneina) and the Southern Darfur-South Sudan border. The completion of logistics arrangements enabled the deployment of civilian staff to UNAMID team sites in Shangil Tobaya and Khor Abeche, thereby enabling the improved coordination of mission activities with humanitarian actors.

50. Within the framework of the UNAMID protection of civilians strategy, early warning and early response mechanisms were strengthened by issuing weekly analytical reports on the protection of civilians for UNAMID senior managers. In addition, improvements were made in the coordination of the activities of humanitarian actors with UNAMID military and police personnel through the establishment of weekly civil-military coordination meetings.

51. In connection with the protection of returnees, the joint verification mechanism continued to assess the voluntariness and appropriateness of returns in Darfur. Since the beginning of 2011, voluntary returns have been occurring at a rate of approximately 1,500 persons per week. The majority of returnees are travelling from camps in Southern Darfur to rural areas in Western Darfur.

VI. Deployment and operations of the mission

52. As of 30 June, the number of UNAMID civilian personnel stood at 4,466, of whom 1,145 are international staff, 2,835 are national staff and 486 are United Nations Volunteers. This represents 81 per cent of the approved strength of 5,516. The mission continues to face difficulties in recruiting and retaining suitably qualified staff owing to the harsh living conditions and unpredictable security situation in Darfur. With regard to the deployment of additional international staff,

36 staff members arrived in the mission area, 32 were separated and 1 candidate declined an offer of appointment with the mission.

53. As of 30 June, the strength of UNAMID military personnel stood at 18,014, representing 92 per cent of the authorized strength of 19,555. This figure includes 17,451 troops, 302 staff officers, 61 liaison officers and 195 military observers. The Ethiopian multirole logistics unit, Rwandan medium rotary-wing utility aviation unit and Nigerian Sector reconnaissance and reserve companies are expected to deploy later in the year, while an incoming Senegalese battalion is expected to reach full strength by October 2011. Shortfalls remain for two medium rotary-wing utility aviation units and a fixed-wing air reconnaissance unit.

54. The readiness and self-sustainment capabilities of military contingents improved marginally over the last three months. At present, 5 of 17 infantry battalions and 4 of 16 formed police units have significant equipment shortfalls and serviceability rates below the mandated limit of 90 per cent.

55. The strength of UNAMID police stood at 2,751 personnel (80 per cent men and 20 per cent women), representing 73 per cent of the authorized strength of 3,772. The formed police unit personnel strength stood at 2,233, or 83 per cent of the authorized strength of 2,660.

56. UNAMID military personnel conducted a total of 12,325 patrols, including 5,589 routine patrols, 999 short-range patrols, 643 long-range patrols, 2,538 night patrols, 623 humanitarian escorts and 1,933 logistics and administrative patrols, covering a total of 7,129 villages and internally displaced person camps. UNAMID police conducted a total of 11,674 patrols. Of these, 6,918 were conducted within camps and with groups of mainly women and children leaving villages and camps to collect firewood and grass, 2,846 were conducted in and around villages and markets, and 1,910 were medium- and long-range patrols.

57. In keeping with the agreement reached at the tenth tripartite coordination mechanism meeting, the Government issued 1,103 new entry visas to UNAMID personnel from April to June. As of 26 June, 1,070 applications for visas were pending. Of these, 775 are for police officers, 96 are for military staff officers and observers, and 199 are for civilian personnel, including consultants and visitors. Although the number of pending applications for entry visas has remained high, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been expeditiously renewing a large number of visas for UNAMID staff whose employment contracts and therefore residence visas expired on 30 June, the end of the 2010/11 financial year. The Government has committed to clearing the backlog of pending entry visa applications shortly thereafter.

58. Progress was made in implementing a bridging solution for UNAMID radio broadcasts. On 26 June, UNAMID signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Public Radio Corporation, according to which the mission will commence broadcasts on Al Salaam and Darfur state radio stations from 1 July.

59. The development and improvement of UNAMID team sites is progressing. Despite logistical challenges, the enhancement of 12 of 30 team sites has been completed. The remaining 18 sites are at various phases of completion and are due to be finished by 31 July 2011. Work on seven more sites is scheduled to be completed by 31 December 2011. The construction of mission subsistence allowance standard accommodation for 1,526 international staff has been completed. This

development has significantly improved the living conditions, security and morale of UNAMID staff in Darfur.

60. Since the last report, 11 additional water boreholes have been drilled, bringing the total number of completed wells to 35. These boreholes are shared with local communities to improve their access to water. With regard to previously reported plans to contract an international company to drill 25 boreholes, difficulties acquiring visas and mobilizing drilling equipment have led to the cancellation of the contract.

61. The construction of community police centres continued. Of the 70 centres planned for construction, 13 have been completed and 3 are near completion.

62. A total of 30 additional quick-impact projects have been completed in the last three months. A total of 288 projects are 65 per cent complete and 65 new projects were approved for implementation. Insecurity and the low capacity of local implementing partners have limited progress in several projects.

63. UNAMID continued to reduce the threat posed by unexploded ordnance throughout Darfur. The mission located and destroyed over 314 ordnance items, and delivered risk awareness training to approximately 33,000 civilians. A total of 645 km of road were assessed as safe for use. Visual and subsurface risk assessments were conducted over a total area of 72,629 m^2.

64. With regard to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the North Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission demobilized 371 ex-combatants (including 21 females) from SLA-Mother Wing, SLA-Free Will, JEM-Peace Wing and the Popular Forces Movement for Rights and Democracy. The Commission also oversaw the discharge of 1,173 personnel from SAF and PDF in Southern and Western Darfur. UNAMID supported the activities by providing technical advice, logistical support, personnel and equipment for HIV/AIDS screening.

VII. Progress against mission benchmarks

65. As mentioned in the introduction, pursuant to paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1935 (2010), the present report includes an assessment of progress against benchmarks set out in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General of 16 November 2009 (S/2009/592).

66. Some progress has been made towards the first benchmark, the achievement of a comprehensive political solution to the conflict. Divergence between the Government and LJM in the Doha negotiations was reduced and points of agreement were consolidated in a draft text. A selection of representatives of Darfuri society endorsed the text at the All Darfur Stakeholders Conference as the basis of comprehensive and inclusive peace for Darfur. The Government and JEM have been engaged in talks, although they were mainly limited to the human rights, power-sharing and security arrangement portfolios. Full achievement of the benchmark remains distant, as several movements, including SLA-Abdul Wahid and SLA-Minni Minawi, remain outside the peace process and have stated their intention of pursuing a change in Government.

67. The second benchmark refers to the restoration of a stable and secure environment throughout Darfur. Intermittent clashes between SAF and movement forces limited progress against this benchmark. However, UNAMID military and police components increased the number of long- and medium-range patrols to new locations, improving the mission's presence and contributing to security in remote areas. Resource-related clashes accounted for 23 deaths, which represents an increase compared to 12 deaths during the previous period.

68. The third benchmark refers to enhancement of the rule of law, governance and human rights protections. Overall, progress in this area was modest. Parties to the conflict continued to fall short of their obligations under international human rights law to protect civilians caught in the fighting. The number of recorded human rights violations and abuses remained similar to those of previous reporting periods. On a positive note, UNAMID documented a decrease in the number of arbitrary detention cases and continued to work with national authorities to consolidate these gains. In addition, the mission continued to work with armed movements to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and to provide technical advice to members of the judiciary.

69. The fourth benchmark refers to stabilizing the humanitarian situation and facilitating humanitarian access. Some progress was made in this area through Operation Spring Basket (as reported in para. 36 above), during which UNAMID and humanitarian agencies conducted missions to assess needs and deliver aid to communities in previously inaccessible areas. In addition, UNAMID increased the number of medium- and long-range patrols and patrols to return sites.

VIII. Financial aspects

70. The General Assembly, by its resolution 65/305, appropriated the amount of $1,689.3 million for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Operation beyond 31 July 2011, the cost of maintaining UNAMID would be limited to the amount approved by the Assembly for the 2011/12 financial period.

71. As of 7 July 2011, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNAMID amounted to $180.2 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1,547.1 million.

72. Reimbursement to contributing Governments for troop and formed police costs, and for contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the period up to 31 May 2011 and 31 March 2011, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations and recommendations

73. The Darfur peace process has reached a critical juncture. Negotiations between the Government and LJM appear to be nearing a conclusion. However, with SLA-Abdul Wahid and SLA-Minni Minawi continuing to pursue their objectives through military means, and negotiations between the Government and JEM seemingly stalled, the outcome of the negotiations will not constitute a comprehensive settlement to the conflict. The All Darfur Stakeholders Conference discussions and

the draft agreement based mostly on the outcome of the negotiations between the Government and LJM represent a step forward and, as endorsed by the Conference, the basis for advancing the peace process. In light of these developments a new road map that lays out the next steps in the Darfur peace process is being prepared.

74. With regard to the main elements of a new road map, a meaningful settlement to the Darfur conflict continues to require broad-based buy-in from all parties to and those affected by the conflict. In this connection, I urge the international community to be united in their messages to the Government, SLA-Minni Minawi, SLA-Abdul Wahid and JEM to cease hostilities and enter into negotiations without preconditions.

75. The Darfur peace process could also benefit from a credible Darfur-based internal dialogue and consultations process that builds popular support for, and local ownership of, the peace process, and enhances the outcomes of the Doha negotiations. In this connection, I encourage the international community to support such a process in the new road map. In this regard, I welcome the preparations undertaken by UNAMID and the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel towards holding the Darfur political process. The establishment of an enabling environment for the process remains paramount and I urge the Government, as a first and critically important confidence-building measure, to now deliver on its commitment to lift the emergency laws in Darfur.

76. In the coming months, UNAMID, the African Union, the United Nations and the broader international community must be poised to assist the Government of the Sudan to address the various causes of instability in the country in a holistic manner. It will be critical that armed offensives are put aside and political dialogue pursued. The forthcoming constitutional review offers an opportunity for political parties and interest groups to come together to agree on a new dispensation that addresses the centre-periphery issues that underlie conflict in the Sudan. In this context, it will be important for a road map for the Darfur political process to be complementary to broader strategies for stability in the Sudan. In this connection, I am pleased to note that the African Union and the United Nations have begun initial consultations on the next steps in the Darfur peace process.

77. The sporadic fighting that took place between Government and movement forces during the last three months caused instability in affected areas, as well as protection and humanitarian needs among communities. In addition, the military activity and associated restrictions limited the ability of UNAMID and humanitarian agencies to access populations in need of assistance. In light of these concerns, I once again reiterate to the belligerent parties that there is no military solution to the Darfur conflict. The continued pursuit of their political objectives by military means merely prolongs the suffering of the people of Darfur and delays the arrival of peace. In this connection, I call upon the Government and those movements that have yet to do so to cease hostilities immediately and join the peace process without delay.

78. I am encouraged by the reports of voluntary returns of internally displaced persons to their towns and villages of origin. I commend UNAMID and the humanitarian community for their focus on providing protection and assistance to these returnees, in addition to the protection and assistance they already provide to internally displaced persons and resident communities. Moreover, I commend UNAMID, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNICEF, WHO

and the other agencies involved in Operation Spring Basket for their efforts to improve humanitarian access to East Jebel Marra and other areas where access was previously limited. During the operation, humanitarian organizations carried out needs assessments and delivered aid to 12 locations, including five in East Jebel Marra where access was previously consistently denied for several months. I note that the operation paved the way for these areas to be reachable again in future visits and I urge UNAMID and the humanitarian community to take steps to ensure that the support provided to these areas is sustained.

79. I note with concern that restrictions on the movement of UNAMID and humanitarian organizations continue to be imposed. While the vast majority of the restrictions were imposed by Government agencies in areas where the presence of movement forces was known or suspected, the mission reserves the right to assess the security of its patrols and, after having ascertained that the risk is acceptable, to proceed in accordance with its mandate. Government security agencies may advise UNAMID that they have concerns about security, but they may not prevent UNAMID from proceeding. I once again call upon the Government and the movements to cease imposing restrictions on UNAMID and humanitarian organizations.

80. The coming year offers significant opportunities for the Government and the people of the Sudan to look to the future to settle conflicts that undermine their security and prosperity. The Government and the people will also face significant challenges resulting from the changes under way in the Sudan. In Darfur, UNAMID has made substantial strides in implementing its protection of civilians mandate and I believe it has a significant role to play, together with the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, in supporting grass-roots-based peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives. In my next report I intend to update the Security Council on the road map for peace in Darfur. It is for these reasons that I recommend that the Council consider an extension by one year of the mandate of UNAMID. During this period, I would review with the African Union the resources authorized for UNAMID with a view to ensuring their most efficient and effective use.

81. Turning to safety of UNAMID and humanitarian personnel in Darfur, while I am encouraged by the relatively low number of attacks recorded during the reporting period — which is attributable in part to the maintenance of a robust posture by UNAMID military and police personnel — I condemn in the strongest terms those responsible for the attack on the UNAMID patrol that led to the tragic loss of life of a UNAMID police adviser. Such attacks are reprehensible and a violation of international law. I offer my sincere condolences to the family, friends and fellow service members of the police adviser, and I call upon the Government to bring the perpetrators of the cowardly attack to justice.

82. I am relieved and grateful for the release of the three aviation staff members contracted to the United Nations Humanitarian Aviation Services who were abducted in Um Shalaya, Western Darfur, on 13 January 2011. I call upon the Government to bring those responsible to justice and to take steps to end the practice of kidnapping those working to help alleviate the suffering of the people of Darfur.

83. I am also deeply concerned about the detention without charge or trial of two UNAMID national staff members by NISS. All UNAMID staff members are entitled to immunity from arrest or prosecution when carrying out duties that are in line with

the mission mandate. The detention of the staff members without charge constitutes a serious violation of the status-of-forces agreement. I insist that the Government release the staff members immediately and present any evidence of wrongdoing it may have against them to my Joint Special Representative, in accordance with proper procedures.

84. In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Joint Chief Mediator, Mr. Djibril Yipene Bassolé, and his team for their outstanding service and their substantial contribution to the Darfur peace process. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Government of Qatar for the support it has provided to the negotiations. I would like to thank the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, for his leadership of the mission, as well as the women and men of UNAMID for their tireless efforts in what are often arduous and challenging circumstances. I would also like to thank the many dedicated humanitarian personnel who work to sustain and improve the lives of Darfuris affected by conflict.